

**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**  
**Emergency Condition Notification Form**

**Date:** Sunday, August 21, 2011

**Time:** 1:00 PM (MDT)

**Facility Affected:** Yellowtail Dam

**River(s) Affected:** Bighorn River

**Organizations Receiving this Notification:**

Current conditions at Yellowtail Dam do not require formal notifications. The status update below is for informational purposes only.

**Condition Description**

Current Conditions – Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn River:

- Reservoir Elevation: 3645.68 feet, a decrease of about 0.32 feet in the last 24 hours.
- Elevation of the top of the Joint-Use Pool (normal Full-pool level): 3640.0 feet
- Elevation of the top of Exclusive Flood Control Pool: 3657.0 feet
- Release to the Bighorn River: 5,400 cubic-feet per second (cfs)
- 24-hour average inflow: 3,100 cfs
- Exclusive Flood Control Storage Utilized: 29.9 percent of 258,331 acre-feet available

In order to control the rate of evacuation of the flood storage pool, as well as to stage down the Bighorn River flows in a controlled manner, the following reduction in releases is scheduled:

Monday, August 22 at 4:00 PM: Releases to the Bighorn River will be reduced to about 5,000 cfs.

There are no dam safety related conditions or concerns with Yellowtail or Yellowtail Afterbay Dams. Inflows and releases from Yellowtail Dam have dropped below levels requiring an elevated response level and increased notifications to downstream authorities and affected agencies. However, at current river levels there is increased potential for local flooding should a heavy precipitation event occur downstream of Yellowtail Dam.

**1. Potential River Levels and Times of Arrival**

The following provides the approximate travel times and river stage rises from Yellowtail Dam to reach key locations along the Bighorn River:

| <u>Bighorn River Location</u>         | <u>Approximate Travel Time</u> | <u>Approximate River Stage Increase per 500 cfs change</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Two Leggins Bridge                    | 7-9 hours                      | 0.20 feet  |
| Hardin                                | 10-12 hours                    | 0.20 feet  |
| Confluence with the Yellowstone River | 24 hours                       | 0.15 feet  |

## **2. Actions Taken by Reclamation**

We are continuing to post updates to the operational conditions at Yellowtail Dam on the Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Area Office website at <http://www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao>

## **3. Actions Expected of Downstream Agencies**

Please be advised that continued reductions in releases to the Bighorn River will be scheduled in the coming weeks to continue controlling the rate of evacuation of the flood storage pool, as well as to stage down Bighorn River Flows in a controlled manner. Currently we are anticipating these reductions to occur once or twice per week.

## **4. For Additional Information**

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## **5. Media Inquiries:**

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